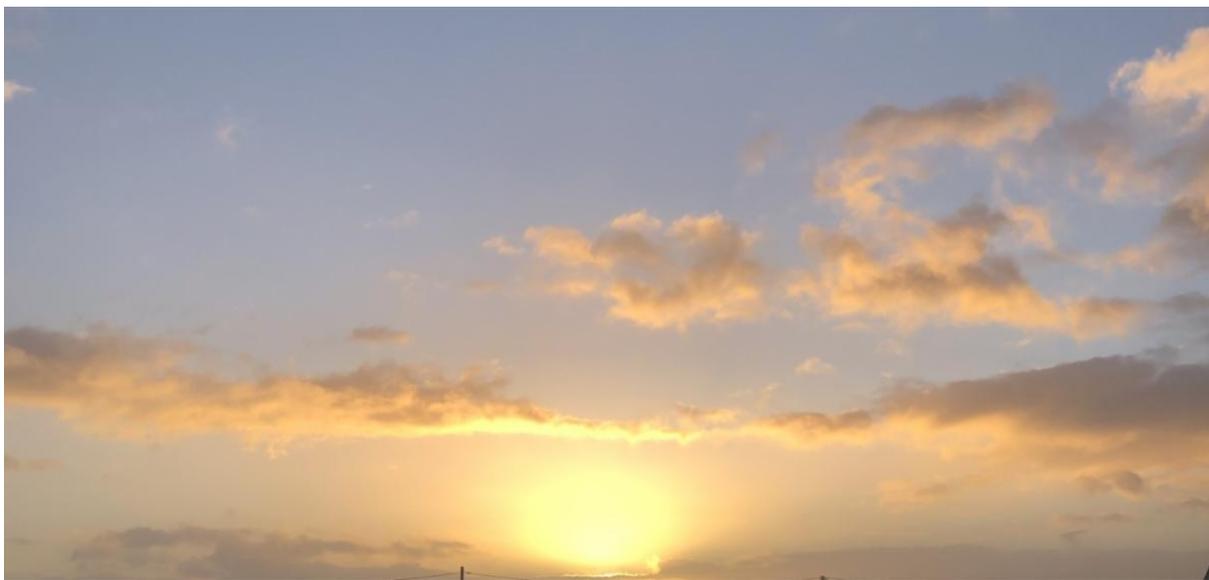




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## IASW NEWSLETTER

### June 2021



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Dear Danielle, Welcome to the Summer 2021 edition of the IASW Newsletter.

I am both delighted and honoured to have been elected as Chair of the IASW at last month's AGM. I look forward to working with our Board, staff, council, the IASW membership, and all our partners, to advance the priorities of the IASW, and to represent the social work profession, the interests of our members and service users. We are currently in our fiftieth anniversary year and have much to celebrate. At the same time, we remain under the enduring negative shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of my priorities for the coming year include the development of a new strategic plan for the Association and further building up our available resources so that we can better achieve our goals.

In looking to the future, I am conscious of those who went before and showed the way in terms of leadership and hard work. In particular, I appreciate all that outgoing Chair, Áine McGuirk and Vice Chair John Brennan have done, and continue to do, for and with IASW. Thankfully, both Áine and John remain involved, and I look forward to continuing to avail of their wise counsel and support. As we also welcome new Board members, Claire McGettrick and Washington Marovatsanga, it is clear that the social work profession and indeed the IASW itself have never been more relevant and needed than right now. This is evident in various ways, particularly through the relevant issues that continue to emerge and call for our attention.

IASW membership numbers have been growing steadily in recent times, thanks to the combined efforts of our staff team and others. Our collective membership, working together, is our greatest strength and I urge all concerned to continue the drive to further increase our membership numbers. Finally, I assure you of my ongoing commitment to representing and championing social work and the rights and needs of those with whom we work, with you, to the best of my ability.

**Vivian Geiran, IASW Chair, SW00319**



***Life is simple  
You get what you put in***



## AGM Update



Thank you so much to all of our members who participated in the 2021 virtual Annual General Meeting. The meeting was a great success, over 100 members registered for the event, and over 70 members participated. A copy of the minutes (to be approved at 2022 AGM) and motions, which were successfully passed at the AGM can be found by clicking the link below.

The members agreed to increase to the number of members on the Board from 10 to 11 for the coming year, in order to facilitate the programme of work being undertaken by the Board.

*2021 – 2022 Board of Directors*

- Vivian Geiran - Chair
- Áine McGuirk
- Hilda Loughran
- Anette O'Callaghan
- Colletta Dalikeni
- Majella Hickey
- Gary Gartland – Commercial Director
- Rachel McCormack
- Brídín Murphy
- Washington Marovatsanga
- Claire McGettrick – Commercial Director

As per the associations Constitution the Vice-Chair and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Board. The first meeting of the new Board will take place on July 12th.

We are very pleased to welcome new members Claire & Washington onto the Board, and we know that their skills and experience will be an asset to our Board.

[AGM 2021 Minutes](#)

# Workers (IASW)

## Moments from the Archives – the 1980s

In September 1982, the IASW sent to its members a discussion document on Statutory Registration produced by the Registration Subcommittee convened by Frank Goodwin. The IASW Executive considered this document to be '...probably the most important document to go to members for years.'

In October, 1984, the IASW sent a report to the European Commission in Brussels on Social Work Development in Ireland 1984. This report commenced with the statement that 'The

economic recession and the subsequent cutbacks in the public service must again dominate any review of Irish social services.' It stated that social workers in the community were reporting a high level of demand for financial aid or help in obtaining benefits and noted the lack of development of community work. The allocation of public housing particularly in Dublin continued to cause difficulties. The plight of the Traveller community was also raised in this report. Everything changes and nothing changes!

In 1985, cutbacks in health and social services continued to be a hot and very real topic. The IASW Journal for July-September 1985 published an article by Frances Keogh on the Wexford Family Centre where she worked. Also in that issue, Brian Harvey wrote an article titled 'A Policy for the Homeless'.



*NB! Information taken from available original material and newspaper coverage*

*Read the full article by clicking the button below.*

**John Brennan**

**Vice-Chair, IASW Board**

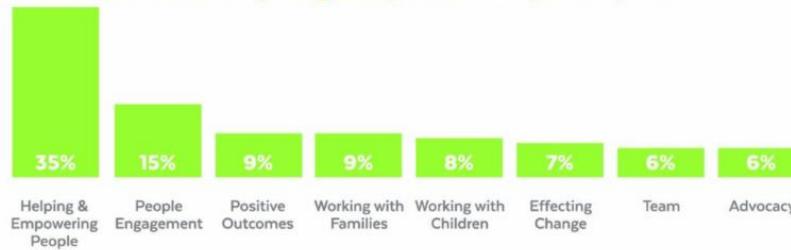
[Read the Full Article](#)

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## IASW Social Work During Covid-19 Ongoing Survey

# Helping & Empowering People is the most satisfying aspect of your job



The IASW Social Work During Covid-19 Survey was informed by 456 responses over a seven week period from 12th May – 29th June 2020.

Social workers were increasingly worried about the challenge of providing an adequate and quality service over the course of the data collection, increasing from one in three social workers at the outset to two in three social workers at the end. Client well-being emerged as a key concern. Unsurprisingly, given the centrality of human relationships in social work practice, social workers struggled with the loss of direct work with clients, with over half (54%) of respondents identifying the challenges associated with restricted, or lack of, direct face to face work with clients as their biggest challenge. While IT and communication apps/tools were considered useful during restrictions on physical contact, social workers were clear that working online was not a substitute for working face to face in the same physical space with clients. The limitations of online working have severely impacted the nature and effectiveness of social work services and the foundations on which professional decisions are based. Positive developments emerged as social work practice adapted to new ways of working. Social workers clearly demonstrated their resourcefulness and creativity in times of crisis. They adapted practice and created solutions to develop contact and connection with clients in order to ensure their needs were met, to deliver a safe, quality service and to do their utmost to keep clients safe and supported, insofar as possible.

[Read More Here!](#)

## CPD Audit & the Requirements of Registration

The current audit period for social workers has just begun and runs from 1 June 2021 to 31 May 2022. A random sample of social workers were selected this month to submit their CPD from the previous cycle for audit to confirm they have a system and process in place to ensure knowledge, skills and performance are of a high standard. CORU's CPD Record Template is the only document CORU require registrants selected for audit to submit. Registrants are no longer required submit a record of supporting documentation/evidence of CPD activities nor are they required to complete reflective practice reports. Registrants should however maintain supporting documentation as evidence of engagement in CPD. It is expected that the impact of learning on your professional practice is captured in the reflective aspects of your CPD record.

Clíona Murphy, Professional Development Coordinator with the IASW, will provide participants with an overview of CPD and the requirements of registration at a free webinar which will take

place on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July from 12-2 pm. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions. Cliona is also interested to hear about the information and supports needed in your professional development to inform the development of IASW supports

**Cliona Murphy**  
**CPD Coordinator**

[Book Now!](#)

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## Updates



### ☐CELEBRATE☐

As of April we officially have 1500+ IASW members, a first in our 50-year history. We are the voice of social work in Ireland & committed to the highest standards of practice and ethics & build a thriving community. We would like to take a moment to say thank you to everyone who helped us get here.

[Member Get a Member Campaign](#)

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A huge thanks to all the members who participated in our referral campaign over the last couple of months. Thanks to your referrals we have had almost 40 more members join our community. IASW would like to return the favour to our supportive members, each time you refer someone you have the opportunity to win a one4all voucher

Refer and WIN



Programme Directors and Practice Learning Coordinators from the six social work education providers wish to extend a sincere thank you to practice teachers, their colleagues, and teams for providing such excellent support to their social work students on placement. You can read the full message by following the link below.

Thank you Message

## IASW & Care Champions Call for Urgent Action to Protect Nursing Home Residents on RTÉ Investigates.



**IASW**  
Irish Association of  
Social Workers

IASW member, Safeguarding Expert, and Assistant Professor in the School of Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice, **Dr. Sarah Donnelly**, along with Majella Beattie, Chair of Care Champions (a family led advocacy group) appeared on **RTÉ Investigates** feature on care failings in nursing homes, on last night's **Prime Time**. Families supported by Care Champions over the last year shared their harrowing accounts of their experiences of care failings. If you missed the programme, its available to watch back on the **RTÉ player**.

A copy of the joint statement from IASW & Care Champion can be read by following the link below.

**We are stronger together**, and we need to **use our voices** to demand much needed change in many areas of Nursing Home care. Support your profession by following the IASW on our Social Media platforms **Twitter** and **Facebook**

## Important Information

### **Claiming Tax Relief on the CORU Annual Retention Fee**

We would like to share with all IASW members news about tax relief. CORU-registered professionals may claim tax relief (at 20%) against the CORU annual retention fee where there is a statutory requirement for registration with CORU. Visit the link below to learn more and check if this applies to yourself and how to make the claim with Revenue.

[Visit Coru's Website](#)

### **Parent's Leave and Parent's Benefit extended from April 1st 2021**

Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman T.D. and the Minister for Social Protection, Heather Humphreys T.D., today commenced the family leave provisions under the Family Leave and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2021, meaning parents can now avail of three weeks additional Parent's Leave and Parent's Benefit.

[For more information](#)



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## **IASW National Social Work Conference 2021**

This year's conference we brought together a range of speakers on the topic of social justice, to inform and update and to support participants unpack the concept. On our 50th anniversary, the conference took a look back, reflecting on 50 years of the IASW and social work before focusing on where we are now, and how we can act to create a socially just future.

[Watch back here](#)

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## **Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015**

The Assisted Decision Making (Capacity) Act 2015 was signed into law on the 30<sup>th</sup> December

2015 but has not yet been commenced. This Act applies to everyone and is relevant to all health and social care services. The Act is about supporting decision-making and maximising a person's capacity to make decisions.

This webinar provided attendees with information on the Act itself as well as updates on the commencement and implementation of the Act.

[Click here to watch the event](#)

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## National Child Protection and Welfare Social Work Conference

The National Child Protection and Welfare Social Work conference website. University College Cork (online), 21-22 Oct., 2021. This conference will be of interest to social workers, policy makers, researchers, legal professionals, community groups, social care workers, students and anyone with an interest in the field of child protection and welfare.

**\*Lower rate for IASW Members\***

[Click here to Book the event](#)

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## Submissions and Advocacy

Since March 2020, there have been a variety of submissions advocacy, and communications with the HSCPA, Law Reform Commission, Tusla, HSE and others.

To download all submissions, advocacy, and communications, please visit the links below:

[Submissions](#)

[Advocacy](#)

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## Representations

The IASW is invited to participate in many advisory, expert review and focus groups. We also receive invitations to a wide variety of events. In addition, we also meet with CORU, Tusla, Ministers, Government Departments and the media.

### List of representations April to June 2021

1. Social Work Seminar – Singapore
2. Counter speech: Challenging Hate Speech Online
3. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (UNCRPD).
4. Network meeting and IAMHere Counterspeech presentation
5. Virtual Career Expo – Our Lady's School
6. Launch of HSCP Deliver, a Strategic Guidance Framework for the Health and Social Care Professions 2021 - 2026
7. Focus Group on Advocacy in Covid-19 times
8. Virtual Study Trip UPEC Paris 12 University

9. Symposium Series: Marginalised Ageing and Inclusive Systems Webinar
  10. Briefing with Minister O'Gorman on the White Paper on Ending Direct Provision
  11. Roundtable Invitation - Combating Gender Based Violence: Cyberviolence
  12. HSE COVID-19 webinar with on Revised Visiting Guidance for Residential care Facilities for Implementation on 4th May and Infection control updates
  13. Nomination to the Board of the Children's Rights Alliance
  14. Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion and Youth, UNCRC Stakeholder Consultation
  15. Tackling Child Poverty in Ireland using the European Child Guarantee
  16. Consultation on Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence
  17. Recording Hate Crimes Transnational meeting / discussion on the importance of hate crime data collection
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